<u>DRAWING AMENDMENTS</u>

The Office Action includes an objection to the drawings. No drawing amendments are submitted because amendments to the specification have addressed the issue forming the basis of the drawing objection.

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending and rejected. Claims 1, 2, and 12 have been amended. Claims 1-20 remain pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objected to informalities in the specification and Applicant has amended the specification to address the objections. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for thoroughly reviewing the Application. Applicant requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the specification objections.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). Applicant has addressed the drawing objection with a specification amendment removing the reference numeral (21) that is not found in the drawings. Applicant requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the drawing objection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 2-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has made clarifying amendments to independent Claims 2 and 12 as well as Claim 1. Applicant believes that these clarifying amendments address the Section 112, second paragraph rejections. Accordingly, Applicant requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the Section 112, second paragraph rejections of Claim 2, 12, and their respective dependent claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,553,432 B1, issued to Critz et al. ("Critz").

With respect to independent Claim 1, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because Critz does not teach explicitly or inherently all elements of Claim 1.

Initially, Applicant notes that the Office Action discussion of Claim 1 fails to indicate where or how Critz teaches certain elements of Claim 1. For example, Applicant is unable to find in the Office Action any indication of how Critz teaches the following elements of Claim 1:

- creating a master image of the base configuration by copying an image from the portable boot drive to storage of the master image computer;
- transferring the portable boot drive back to the test computer;
- executing one or more tests on the test computer; and
- copying the master image of the base configuration onto a portable boot drive;

In addition, the elements of Claim 1 that the Office Action does discuss are not taught by the cited portions of the reference.

For example, Claim 1 recites storing a base configuration of a test computer on a portable boot drive of the test computer. The Office Action cites Critz col. 2, line 48 through col. 3, line 5 and col. 5, lines 18-44 as teaching this element. Applicant disagrees.

Critz col. 2, line 48 through col. 3 line 5, for example, is a paragraph that describes the purpose of a conventional operating system. The only reference to anything remotely related to the concept of storing as recited in Claim 1 reads: [operating systems present] a standardized set of interface programming protocols or conventions (e.g., protocols for copying a file to disk storage or deleting a file from disk storage). Applicant respectfully submits that Critz's disclosure of operating systems that include a standardized interface for copying files to a disk does not explicitly or inherently teach storing the base configuration of a test computer on a portable boot drive of the test computer.

Critz col. 5, lines 18-48 describes an application program directing an operating system to access a hard disk drive in an IDE environment in which disk controller electronics have been integrated into the system's motherboard. Applicant submits that Critz's disclosure of an operating system accessing a hard disk via a disk controller that integrated in the system's

motherboard does not explicitly or inherently teach storing a base configuration of a test computer on a portable boot drive.

Because the Office Action fails to indicate how the reference teaches several of the claim elements and because the reference cited does not teach at least some of the remaining claim elements, Applicant respectfully submits that the Section 102(e) rejection of Claim 1 is improper.

With respect to independent Claim 2, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because Critz does not teach explicitly or inherently all elements of Claim 2. Applicant notes that the Office Action does not contain any discussion of Claim 2 and, as such, Applicant is unable to address the rejection of Claim 2 specifically.

Applicant notes, however, that, like Claim 1, Claim 2 also recites, for example, storing a base configuration of a test computer on a portable boot drive of the test computer. Again, Critz's disclosure of operating systems that include a standardized interface for copying files to a disk does not explicitly or inherently teach storing the base configuration of a test computer on a portable boot drive of the test computer. Nor does Critz's disclosure of an operating system accessing a hard disk via a disk controller that is integrated in the system's motherboard explicitly or inherently teach storing a base configuration of a test computer on a portable boot drive.

Accordingly, because the Office Action fails to discuss the rejection of Claim 2 and because the reference does not teach all of the claim elements, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the anticipation rejection of Claim 2. Because dependent Claims 3-11 are rejected on the same grounds as Claim 2, Applicant further requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 3-11 as well.

With respect to independent Claim 12, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because the cited reference does not teach all of the claim elements.

For example, Claim 12 recites storing one or more base configurations of a test computer on portable boot drives of the test computer. The Office Action cites Critz col. 2, line 48 through col. 3, line 5 and col. 5, lines 18-44 as teaching this element. Once again, Applicant disagrees.

As indicated above, Critz col. 2, line 48 through col. 3, line 5 describes the purpose of a conventional operating system. Applicant respectfully submits that Critz's disclosure of operating systems that include standardized interfaces for copying files to a disk does not explicitly or inherently teach storing the base configuration of a test computer on a portable boot drive of the test computer. Critz col. 5, lines 18-48 describes an application program directing an operating system to access a hard disk drive in an IDE environment in which disk controller electronics have been integrated into the system's motherboard. Applicant again submits that Critz's disclosure of an operating system accessing a hard disk via a disk controller that is integrated in the system's motherboard does not explicitly or inherently teach storing a base configuration of a test computer on a portable boot drive.

In addition, the Office Action cites the same portion of Critz as teaching: creating master images of the base configurations by copying an image of each portable boot drive to storage of a master image computer. Applicant disagrees. Critz's disclosure of operating systems that include standardized interfaces for copying files to a disk does not explicitly or inherently teach creating master images of base configurations of a test computer by copying an image of each portable boot drive to storage. Once again, although the cited portion of Critz discloses the concept of copying a file to a disk drive, it does not teach expressly or inherently creating images of a portable boot drive containing a base configuration of a test computer.

Accordingly, because the reference does not teach all of the claim elements, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the anticipation rejection of Claim 12. Because dependent Claims 13-20 stand rejected on the same grounds as Claim 12, Applicant further requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 13-20.
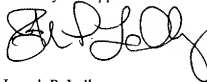
CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that this paper includes a reply to each ground of objection and rejection set forth in the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims.

A fee extending the period for response is submitted with the filing of this paper. If, however, the fee is missing or insufficient, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of Jackson Walker L.L.P., No. 10-0096.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney at 512.236.2019.

Respectfully submitted,
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